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ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
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Crime Commission Update



November 2011

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice
Dave Heineman, Governor
Michael Behm, Executive Director

This issue contains:

- Director's Comments
- Law Enforcement Training Center
- New Employee Spotlights
- 2% Decrease in Crimes Reported in Nebraska
- U.S. Crime Statistics For 2010
- Criminal Justice Video Library
- Notes

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Crime Commission Update

May - June 2011

<http://www.ncc.ne.gov>

Dave Heineman, Governor



DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Since our last update, we have experienced several administrative changes and some new faces at the Crime Commission office. With the passage of LB390, three notable changes occurred.

The Community Corrections Council was changed to Community Corrections, a Division within the Crime Commission, with Linda Krutz as Chief. In addition, the Office of Violence Prevention also became a Division within the Crime Commission, with James Wright as Chief.

Finally, William Muldoon, Director of the Nebraska Law Enforcement Center will be supervised by me along with our Agency Legal Counsel, Mr. David Stolz.

In the last update, I noted several vacancies within the Grants and Information Technologies Divisions. I am pleased to announce the hiring of four new staff members:

Ms. Cindy Gans, Federal Aid Administrator-Juvenile;
Ms. Liza Alderman, Staff Assistant II- CVR;
Mr. Christopher Harris, Juvenile Monitor and DMC Coordinator and,
Mr. Nick Steele, IT Support Analyst

In addition, I would like to acknowledge two staff members who were recently recognized for their hard work and dedication.

Michael Overton, IT Division Chief, was recognized by POAN and NSA as their **2011 Law Enforcement Technology Award** recipient. Michael's award noted his dedication to Nebraska's law enforcement's community, through the Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System (NCJIS) for over ten years and his support of police and sheriff's departments across Nebraska.

Burdette Schoen, Accounting Clerk II, received the **Governor's Recognition of Superior Service as MVP** for her involvement with the 2011 Charitable Giving Campaign. Burdette has been our agency coordinator the past six years and was a part of the Team lead by Nebraska Department of Corrections Director Robert Houston.

In closing, I want to personally thank *all* staff members for their dedicated service to the Crime Commission and the State of Nebraska. Without such a dedicated staff, it would be impossible to provide the services required of our organization.

~ Michael Behm, Executive Director ~

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

Job Task Analysis— The Police Standards Advisory Council through the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice has contracted with Systems Design Group to conduct a Job Task Analysis (JTA) for the position of entry-level law enforcement officer for the state of Nebraska. By state law, the PSAC has a legal mandate to conduct a job validation study every eight years. The last study was delivered in 2003.

The purpose of the study is to identify the job content of entry-level law enforcement officers and validate the content to the current training curriculum used in all Nebraska basic academy training. The current curriculum will be evaluated to see what is missing and prepare learning objectives for any missing content or any needed revisions to current objectives. In order to get the best result, we need assistance in having identified agency personnel providing as much information as possible by participating in the survey.

The first phase of this study involved identifying law enforcement officers who will be invited to take the survey. A list of law enforcement agency personnel who have graduated over the last eight years was mailed to each agency.

We asked that the agency head cross out any person who is not working the traditional law enforcement patrol role. In other words, we are not surveying those law enforcement officers currently assigned to jail or detective duties. Similarly, a list of supervisors for each agency was mailed to the agency head. We asked that any supervisor who is not supervising front-line patrol officers/deputies be crossed-out.

From this information, we drafted the list of those line-officers/deputies and supervisors who will participate in the survey. At the start of October, phase two will begin and we will invite identified line officers/deputies and their supervisors to the NLETC website where they will link to the survey.

The survey is comprehensive and may take two hours to complete. As they complete a page, they can stop and come back to the survey later. Each time they logon, they will automatically be taken to where they left off until the survey is completed.

This project is very important to Nebraskans as our end goal is graduating law enforcement officers from our academies who are able to perform the duties of a law enforcement officer as shown through validated academy curriculum.

JTA Timeline

August 22, 2011	Introductory letters and rosters mailed to agencies
September 8, 2011	First meeting of the JTA Advisory Committee
September 30, 2011	Letter to agencies with final list of JTA participants included, survey ready
Month of October	Survey is live via web
November, 2011	Survey is analyzed, JTA Advisory Committee meets (TBA) for results
December, 2011	Wrap up, JTA Advisory Committee finalizes all information, final report issued

NDI NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

The International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST) launched a complete redesign of the National Decertification Index (NDI) on August 1, 2011. The Index is a nationwide registry of law enforcement officer certificate or license revocation actions relating to misconduct. The information is provided by Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) organizations via a secure internet-accessible platform.

The NDI keeps law enforcement agencies from potentially hiring officers with criminal backgrounds or who have had their certification revoked for cause by a contributing state. The NDI is a key component of a thorough background investigation. The system can flag potentially rogue officers who are jumping from one state to another after having their license or certification revoked in their home state.

“The NDI is a vital tool for maintaining credibility and our public trust in the law enforcement profession” said William Muldoon, Director of the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center and NDI Chairman “Before we had the NDI, we had no way of knowing if an officer had been decertified for cause in another state.”

Information contained in the NDI is provided by participating state government agencies responsible for licensing or revoking law enforcement certificates. The NDI currently contains over 14,000 records.

Recently, the state of Delaware became the 30th state to join the NDI and actively contribute decertification records. “We hope that every State will join this effort” stated Richard Clark, IADLEST President “Access to the NDI is free of charge, and no law enforcement agency should hire an officer without making sure that they have checked the NDI first. It is our duty to uphold the highest professional standards.”

About the NDI

The purpose of NDI is to serve as a national registry of certificate or license revocation actions relating to officer misconduct. The records contained in the NDI are provided by participating state government agencies and should be verified with the contributing authority. Inclusion in the database does not necessarily preclude any individual from appointment as an officer.

The NDI no longer requires the SSN of subjects, therefore alleviating the concern of many states in providing sensitive information. The National Decertification Index is a program funded through a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Neither the U.S. Department of Justice nor any of its components operate, control, are responsible for, or necessarily endorse this website (including, without limitation, its contents, technical infrastructure, policies, and any services or tools provided).

For information, contact NDI Chair, William Muldoon at William.muldoon@nebraska.gov for more information.



NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Cindy Gans has been hired as the new Juvenile Justice Specialist with the Nebraska Crime Commission.

Cindy received her BA from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and has continued her education with graduate courses at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Cindy has gained professional experience at UNL, Nebraska State Patrol and Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition training various disciplines, engaging in multiple grant processes and coordinating extensive research professionally and academically

Christopher Harris has been hired as our Juvenile Monitor and Disproportionate Minority Confinement Coordinator. Christopher is a graduate of Saint Louis University of Missouri with a bachelor in Business. He has previous experience underwriting insurance for Medicare Supplement and Corp Insurance. He is eager and excited to help facilities state-wide maintain compliance with the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act's four core requirements

2% DECREASE IN CRIMES REPORTED IN NEBRASKA

LINCOLN - Michael Behm, Executive Director of the Nebraska Crime Commission, has announced today that Nebraska experienced a 2% decrease in the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies during 2010 compared to 2009. Behm indicated there were 52,152 crimes reported during 2010 compared to 53,098 reported in 2009. These numbers include only the offenses of Murder-Manslaughter, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson which serve as the basis for the Crime Index used to measure crime statewide.

In the violent crime category, Nebraska experienced a 1% decrease with 4,837 violent crimes reported during 2010 compared to 4,892 reported in 2009. Murder, Manslaughter increased 29% (from 41 to 53 offenses). Forcible Rape increased 8% (from 580 to 628). Robbery decreased 16% (from 1,213 to 1,017) and Aggravated Assault increased 3% (from 3,058 reported in 2009 to 3,139 reported in 2010).

"The violent crimes of Murder, Forcible Rape and Aggravated Assault all increased in Nebraska. This is in contrast to the national trend which had decreases for these crimes, as reported by the FBI" said Behm. "The number of Forcible Rapes reported in 2010 was the highest in the last 5 years," added Behm.

In terms of property crime, a 2% decrease occurred with 47,315 offenses reported in 2010 compared to 48,203 reported in 2009. Burglary had a decrease of 5% (from 8,313 reported in 2009 to 7,905 in 2010). Larceny-Theft decreased 2% (from 36,205 to 35,648). Motor Vehicle Theft increased 3% (from 3,406 to 3,513) and Arson decreased 11% (from 279 in 2009 to 249 in 2010).

"Nebraska followed the national trend of decreases in all the property crimes except in Motor Vehicle theft. Nebraska had a 3% increase compared to a 7% decrease nationally," said Behm.

Crime in Omaha decreased 5% (from 20,784 offenses reported in 2009 to 19,718 offenses in 2010). Lincoln experienced a 3% increase (from 11,176 to 11,480). Cities of 5,000 to 99,999 in population saw a 1% decrease (from 13,837 to 13,765). Cities under 5,000 population had a 7% decrease (from 1,196 to 1,113 in 2010). County areas reported a 2% decrease (from 5,828 to 5,718). Crime occurring on State Property increased 29% (from 277 to 358).

The number of persons arrested in Nebraska during 2010 decreased 6% from 2009. In 2010 there were 83,860 arrests compared to 88,673 in 2009, a decrease of 4,813 arrests.

The top five categories in terms of number of arrests made during 2010 include: Driving under the Influence (12,614 arrests); Liquor Law Violations (10,636 arrests); Drug Abuse Violations (10,201 arrests); Simple Assault (8,924 arrests), and Larceny-Theft (8,703 arrests).

Adult arrests (involving persons age 18 and over) had a 5% decrease, from 73,506 arrests in 2009 to 69,829 arrests in 2010. Adult arrests accounted for 83% of the total arrests made statewide.

Juvenile arrests decreased 7%, from 15,167 in 2009 to 14,031 in 2010. Decreases were seen in 23 of the 28 arrest categories.

Behm said “Juvenile arrests for Driving under the Influence and Liquor Law Violations both had the lowest number reported in the last 5 years. Unfortunately the number of juvenile arrests for Drug Abuse Violations had the highest number recorded in the last 5 years.”

Hate crime statistics were also released. During 2010 there were 65 incidents reported involving crimes motivated by hate. This is an 18% decrease from the 79 reported in 2009. Racial bias accounted for 60% of the total hate crimes. Ethnic bias accounted for 15.4%, Religious Bias accounted for 13.8% and Sexual bias accounted for 10.8%. Of the hate crimes reported, 40% involved simple assault and 29.2% involved destruction of property.

The complete 2010 Report is available at the Crime Commission’s Internet site at www.ncc.state.ne.us Offense and arrest queries are also available at http://www.ncc.ne.gov/statistics/data_search/arrest.htm

U.S. CRIME STATISTICS FOR 2010

The following is a press release from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The incidence of crime nationwide decreased again, according to our just released *Crime in the United States* report. Overall, the estimated volume of violent crimes in 2010 dropped 6% compared to the 2009 figure, the fourth consecutive year it has declined. For the eighth consecutive year, the volume of property crimes went down as well - 2.7%

The report was compiled from data submitted to us by more than 18,000 city, county, university and college, state, tribal and federal law enforcement agencies from around the nation. It contains information on the number of reported murders and non-negligent manslaughters, forcible rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larceny-thefts, motor vehicle thefts, and arsons.

Violent crime offenses were down across the board - the largest decrease was robbery, down 10%. Property crime offenses went down as well - the largest decline, 7.4% was for motor vehicle thefts.

Beyond the crime Count.

The report contains what’s called “expanded offense data”. This information involves additional details about some of the crimes - i.e., type of weapon used,

locations of robberies, type or value of items stolen; and for the offense of murder, the age, sex, and race of victims and offenders, and, if known, the relationship of the victim to the offender.

It also contains arrest data on the above crimes, plus about 20 other offenses, including forgery/counterfeiting, fraud, gambling, weapons violations, drug violations, sex offenses, and driving under the influence.

You can browse through the statistics contained in the report and choose particular information you’d like to focus on - like national data, regional data, state totals, reporting agencies, cities and counties grouped by populations, and statistics from certain metropolitan areas.

We caution against drawing any kind of conclusions from the report by making direct comparisons between cities. Valid assessments are only possible with an understanding of various factors affecting each jurisdiction. For more details, read the *Caution Against Ranking*.

According to FBI Director Robert Mueller, *Crime in the United States* can provide “valuable insight into the nature and volume of crime in small and large communities alike.” It can also “offer a picture that experts can study, and as a result, produce new strategies or improve current methods of combating crime.”

Here are some highlights from *Crime in the United States, 2010*:

- Total number of crimes reported: 10,329,135 (1,246,248 violent crimes and 9,082,887 property crimes);
- Most common violent crime: aggravated assault (62.5% of all violent crimes during 2010);
- Most common property crime: larceny-theft (68.2% of all property crimes during 2010);
- Top three crimes for which law enforcement reported arrests: drug abuse violations (1,638,846); driving while intoxicated (1,412,223), and larceny-theft (1,271,410);
- Total number of arrests, excluding traffic violations: 13,120,947, including 552,077 for violent crimes and 1,643,962 for property crimes (the number of arrests doesn’t reflect the number of individuals arrested - some individuals may have been arrested more than once);
- Most common characteristics of arrestees: 74.5% of arrestees were male, and 69.4% of arrestees were white;

- How often firearms were used in crimes: in 67.5% of reported murders, 41.4% of reported robberies, and 20.6% of aggravated assault; and
- Total losses for victims of property crimes, excluding arsons: an estimated \$15.7 billion.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE VIDEO LIBRARY

The following Video has been added to the library and is available for loan:

GOOSE CREEK SHOOTING/CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSE/ HANDLING THREATS VS OFFICERS (DVD)

32 Minutes Color Line of Duty: 2011 AD

In this program, a South Carolina officer responds to an armed robbery outside his jurisdiction. Many factors come into play during his car chase of the suspect. There are communication issues because of different radio frequencies and he is dealing with unfamiliar surroundings. The car chase is captured on police video and ends when the officer fires shots into the stopped car after the suspect uses his vehicle as a weapon. The conclusion of this video contains lessons learned by the officer. Segments of an interview with the officer are shown throughout the video.

NOTES

- We have limited copies available of the 2012 Nebraska Criminal Justice Directory. If you have not ordered a directory and would like one, please contact Ann Bauers at (402) 471-2195. The cost is \$7.50 plus sales tax if applicable



THOUGHT(S) FOR THE DAY

-ON INTELLIGENCE-

“The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us.”

-Bill Watterson

“I not only use all the brains that I have, but all that I can borrow.”

- Woodrow Wilson

“I’m not offended by all the dumb blonde jokes because I know I’m not dumb...and I also know that I’m not blonde.”

- Dolly Parton

“Intelligence without ambition is a bird without wings.”

-Salvador Dali

“Be as smart as you can, but remember that it is always better to be wise than to be smart.”

-Alan Alda